

Appl. S.N.: 10/674,117
Reply to Office Action of July 3, 2007

RD-29557-5

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated July 3, 2007, claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oles (US 3,246,493) in view of France '149 (France 2,594,149) or Japan '394 (Japan 2001-198394) or France et al (US 6,840,069). Claims 10-17 and 40-45 have been cancelled.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Independent Claim 1 as amended herein is directed to an article cleaning apparatus and recites in pertinent part:

a fluid regeneration device including
a cleaning fluid regeneration adsorption
media that contains a portion of solvent
based cleaning fluid to replace the solvent
based cleaning fluid consumed...

The cited patent to Oles relates to dry cleaning machines. In particular Oles discloses an apparatus for separating water from the returning condensed solvent and means for continuing solvent extraction and condensation until the clothes are entirely dry. (Col. 3, Lines 66-72).

Oles does not disclose or suggest a fluid regeneration device that includes a fluid regeneration adsorption media containing a portion of solvent based cleaning fluid to replace the solvent based cleaning fluid consumed. In fact, the Examiner indicated that the so called fluid regeneration device of Oles is the element 82 – which is the filter of Oles.

None of the secondary references cited disclose or suggest this feature of independent amended claim 1. Further, Oles does not teach or suggest the need for such a feature as it is solely concerned with the removal of water and its impurities before the solvent is returned to a reservoir for use in a subsequent cleaning cycle (Col. 1, lines 24-28). Thus Oles is not interested in replacing the

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solvent used but only in separating the water and removing impurities from the solvent.

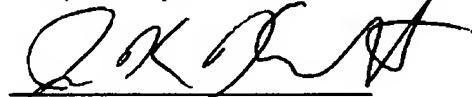
Independent amended claims 18 and 21 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons advanced as to independent amended claim 1. The rest of the claims depend on independent claims 1, 18 and 21 and are therefore believed to be allowable based on their dependencies on allowable claims.

Any additional fees for this amendment are hereby petitioned for, and the Director is authorized to charge such fees as may be required to Deposit Account 07-0868.

In view of the foregoing amendments and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason K. Klindtworth
Reg. No. 47,211

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A65
Niskayuna, New York 12309

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Telephone: (518) 387-7360 or
(518) 387-7122